

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

Parish including Birchley Heath, Ansley Common  
Ansley Village, Church End

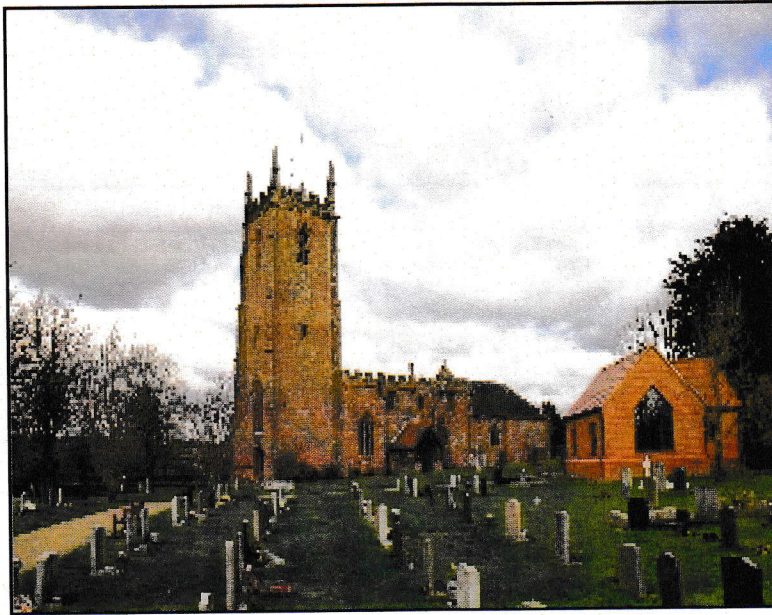
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## STOPTOBER!

This month there is a campaign called 'Stoptober' to encourage smokers to give up smoking. Over the years there have been several attempts by the NHS to persuade smokers to kick the habit – and with some success!

It is a well known fact that smoking is extremely harmful to our health – clogging arteries, increasing the risk of lung cancer and much more. Fortunately I have never become hooked on the idea of smoking. When I was 17 my school friends and I gave it a try. I bought 'a packet of fags,' had about two, decided I wasn't impressed and threw them away. I am so glad that at that young age I made at least one sensible decision. In those days, the dangers of smoking were not widely advertised.

I suppose that we could equally say that being overweight is also damaging to our bodies – to our heart and to other vital organs and how they function. It brings on the deadly effects of diabetes or high blood pressure. A high – in – fat diet also can clog our arteries. As I have grown older, I have had a constant battle with weight gain (inherited) and am currently trying to battle to achieve a balance between diet and exercise. They say, "We are what we eat," – I would like to add to that, "and how we move!!"

What on earth has all this got to do with God for heaven's sake? Well it has a lot to do with him actually.

When we are born into this world, we come, in most cases, with a perfect, pure body. There is a saying, 'our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.' (1 Corinthians 6v19)

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 6, verses 12 to 20 we discover more about the relationship between our bodies and God's purposes. At the end of 1 Corinthians Chapter 6, Paul wrote, 'use your bodies for God's glory.' The word 'body' in the Bible carries all kinds of connotations, which is characteristic of Jesus, who uses everyday examples to illustrate a point. The word 'body' can refer to all aspects of our lives including our church life. In John 2 v 21 Jesus refers to His body. He gave this name to the sacrament (bread and wine) – 'this is my body....this is my blood.' During the Communion service, at the point of sharing the 'peace,' the body is also mentioned. 'We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.....'

We, as Christians, represent God and reflect His values.

Peace be with you all during this month of October.

Gwyneth



### October St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Last Trinity	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
			Songs of Praise

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

### Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

Eden Fleur Farmer celebrated her baptism on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, supported by her parents, Helen and Ben and by her godparents, family and friends. The Reverend Don Jones conducted the service.

Honey Violet Day celebrated her baptism on 10<sup>th</sup> September, supported by her parents, Faye and Scott and by her godparents, family and friends. The Reverend Rick White officiated at this service.

The members of St Laurence's congregation welcome Eden and Honey into the church family and send them every good wish as they grow in the Christian faith.

#### Wedding

Catherine Johnson and Leigh Gunn celebrated their wedding, surrounded by family and friends on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The Reverend Mervyn Roberts was the officiating officer. We wish them every happiness throughout their marriage.

#### Interment

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September the family of Una Harper gathered at St Laurence's to inter her mortal remains in the family grave.

### St Laurence's Open Church Sundays

Please remember that the final Open Church Sunday for this year will be on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, from 12 noon to 6.00 p.m.

### Harvest at St Laurence's

Decorating the church for the harvest service will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Preparations will continue on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00 a.m., followed by cleaning the church. The church will then be open from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Your help in supplying produce, flowers, arranging or cleaning will be very welcome. There will be no 8.00 a.m. service this year. Harvest Holy Communion will be at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at St Laurence's, when gifts will be received at the altar during the service. Harvest Evensong is at 6.30 p.m. The harvest celebration concludes with a Harvest Supper and auction of produce in the Annexe on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a choice of fish and chips or chicken and chips, followed by apple pie or trifle. The cost is £6.00 per person. Please book your meal by contacting Diana Kealey (02476395089) or through a church member.

### St John's Bingo Evening

This enjoyable social event will begin at 7.00 p.m. in St John's Hall, Ansley Common on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Fifty Third Flower Festival

The 2017 Flower Festival will be long remembered by those that took part as the year when the weather was absolutely perfect, warm, sunny and with a gentle breeze for the whole of the event.

The theme of "Change" was portrayed in the 27 different displays and, as the Rev Mervyn Roberts mentioned in his sermon during the Sunday Evensong service, there were 27 different sermons in those 27 displays.

The church congregation has experienced change over the last 15 months without a vicar, as many different clergy and readers have visited St Laurence's to lead services.

Another change is that last year, we were extremely busy on the Monday whereas this year it was the Saturday when we were particularly busy. As always we are very grateful to all those who help with this happy event. There are so many that take part in their own different ways, from doing a lot of tidying in the churchyard, to helping with the cleaning, stewarding, selling produce, refreshments and raffle tickets, making masses of cakes, providing the vast quantity of produce, giving money to buy flowers and praying for the event. The list seems endless. To each and every one the people of Ansley Church say a big THANK YOU.

A few comments from our visitors' book best portray how much the festival was appreciated.

"Beautiful, very well done, lovely work everyone." A B

"Absolutely beautiful a lot of work gone into this." N H.

"Love the way you have interpreted Biblical material – beautiful flowers and appreciated the Christian message." C & A F

"Very moving; I have been to many Art galleries and was Very impressed by the Art here!!  
T. P.



The atmosphere that always accompanies our Flower Festivals did not change this year! Friendship and fellowship is strengthened, both in working together and helping one another. There is much enjoyment in meeting returning visitors and encountering new ones. Generally everyone does their best to make the festival a rewarding occasion. The generosity of the many visitors has also made it a financial success, a total of £3,740 was made for church funds. Of this figure 20% £748 has been transferred to the Fabric Fund and £467.50 that will be given to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the same amount to the Acorn Children's Hospice at our Harvest Festival Service.

#### Ride and Stride

Mr Phil Rees completed his bike ride to raise funds for Coventry and Warwickshire Historic Churches' Trust. Thank you to everyone who sponsored him. His ride took him to churches at Astley, Fillongley, Meriden, Maxstoke and Ansley. He reports that the distance was about 25 miles and quite demanding as there are lots of ups and downs! The total amount raised by Phil and the amount given back to our church funds will be in next month's magazine.

#### Art Exhibition and Sale

The exhibition was very well attended this year, with twice as many visitors as last year. A total of £152 has been given to church funds from the selling of light refreshments and a percentage from sales of pictures. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to this successful event.

#### Advance Notices

Christmas tree application forms are now available. If you would like to decorate a tree and have not done so in the past please just ask for a form. Trees cost £14, which is the same as last year. The trees will arrive on the morning of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and any help would much appreciated to get them in to the buckets and then in place. Decorating will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. More details next month.

The Village Christmas Fayre will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m.

St. Johns' from 2 p.m. on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### From the PCC

An electric heater is to be placed into the vestry to protect the area from damp.

#### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services, both at St. Laurence's and at St. John's, please hand the slip below to a member of the church congregation or contact a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for .....who is.....

October, 2017.

They say we English are obsessed by the weather, but this is no wonder as although we don't have the extremes of many countries, for which we are thankful, our seasons are no longer clearly defined. Although this summer there have been many dark dismal days, this has been our best year for a long time for the flowers, bees and especially Butterflies. Also we are picking lots of tomatoes, and I bought my granddaughter a plum tree last year and it is laden with plums, so let us hope that this bodes well for all farmers and growers.

Have you ever decided to clean some rubbish out and then found yourself putting nearly everything back where you found it? I did this recently and being of a certain age, have a lot of memories stored, but I did manage to fill a very large bag for the bin. I also found some items which I could not ditch - black and white wedding photos of Dave's uncle on which were his Grandma and Grandad, photos of whom were very rare as in those days hardly anyone owned a camera, so wedding photos were the only ones taken. Also although she lived many more years, when the marriage broke up, his Grandma vowed never to go to another wedding, and she didn't.

In August I received a catalogue to order Christmas cards. I could hardly believe it, as I just wish we could be allowed to enjoy the seasons as they come along - beautiful Autumn when everywhere is full of wonderful colours, smells and sounds, Harvest Festival and supper when we thank God for his generosity; the faces of the children who are the children of the children who have come Trick or Treating throughout the years and Bonfire night. Why think about Christmas when there are so many other events to celebrate?

I read an article which was wondering how many people Charlie Chaplin made laugh. Although he was a comic actor before "Talkies", his films were shown all across the world and are still available today. 'A day without laughter is a day wasted,' that's what Charlie Chaplin said. If we allocated a day to each person who laughed at his films, it is certain they would add up to several lifetimes worth of joy, so let us make sure we fill our lives with un-wasted days.

Marie Cove